

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 30 (Cancelled)

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A tablet comprising particles of a phosphate-binding polymer having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, and having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 and a water content of 1-14%.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 wherein said particles of a phosphate-binding polymer have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 which further contains at least one of crystalline cellulose and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 33 wherein the content of the crystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is at

least 10 wt% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer particles

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 33 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 wt% substitution by hydroxypropoxyl groups.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to any of claims 31-35 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer particles are obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 wherein further contains a hardened oil.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 31 which is coated on the surface with a water-soluble film base.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A process for producing a phosphate-binding polymer tablet comprising:

grinding a phosphate-binding polymer having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 into particles having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, said phosphate-binding polymer being either polyallylamine or obtained by crosslinking the same;

b. Adjusting the phosphate-binding polymer particles to a water content of 1-14%;

c. Mixing the particles with at least one of crystalline cellulose and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose; and

d. Compressing the mixture into tablets.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 39 wherein said phosphate-binding polymer is ground into particles having an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 wherein the polymer particles have an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 500 microns, and with a water content of 1-14%.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The tablet according to claim ~~40~~⁴⁴ wherein the polymer particles have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 which further contains a component

selected from the group consisting of crystalline cellulose, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 44 wherein the content of the component is at least 10% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 44 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 weight % substitution by hydroxy groups.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 which further contains a hardened oil.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 which is coated with a water-soluble film base.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The tablet according to claim 40 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer particles are obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

Claims 50 - 52 (Cancelled)

Claim 53 (New): A method for treating hyperphosphatemia comprising administering a tablet according to claim 31 to a patient in need thereof.